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TO THE READERS OF "THE MONTHLY."

THE few words which it has become requisite to preface the present Number with, will not assume the important form of an Address; a simple note of explanation is all that is necessary.

The "Monthly" has passed into other hands. This declaration will at once account for any deviation from the political course it has lately adopted, that may be observable in this number. The new conductors of the Magazine will not say, in the hacknied phrase of most editorial addresses from the throne, that they are "perfectly unbiassed by party feelings;" on the contrary, they acknowledge themselves to be influenced by party;—that party, is the People, headed by a King who has the rare wisdom to perceive, that the dignity of the crown is identified with the rights of the subject. It is not to them a matter of vast importance, whether the number for January, 1831, agree or not, in every political particular, with the present—for January, 1832; but it is exceedingly important that they should express their opinions without reference to those of their predecessors; and that they should devote their Journal, as far as its influence extends, to the dissemination of such principles as, in their belief, must ultimately tend more to the true glory of England, than all its Blenheims, Agincourts, and Waterloos.

By way of prelude to these internal changes, they have adopted an external one. The new wrapper of the Magazine is decorated with the head of Milton—an outward and visible sign, they trust, of the inward spirit and integrity that will characterize their pages. They make no apology for concluding this explanatory note with Wordsworth's noble sonnet to Milton: it was written thirty years ago, and times are changed—but the poetry of some of its passages has survived the philosophy of others:—

SONNET TO MILTON.—WORDSWORTH.

"Milton, thou should'st be living at this hour;
England hath need of thee; she is a fen
Of stagnant water. Altar, sword, and pen,
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,
Have forfeited their ancient English dower
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men.
Oh! raise us up, return to us again,
And give us manners, freedom, virtue, power.
Thy soul was like a star and dwelt apart;
Thou had'st a voice whose sound was like the sea,
Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free.
So didst thou travel on life's common way
In cheerful godliness—and yet thy heart
The lowliest duties on herself did lay."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To the many favours we owe our Correspondents, we must beg them to add one more, by putting as charitable a construction as they can upon our silence, whenever circumstances compel us—as they have occasionally compelled us during the past year—to be a little Lord Eldonish in our decisions upon their contributions. We anticipate no delays for the future. All communications sent before the 10th of the month will be answered on the 1st of the succeeding month; from this rule we shall seldom allow ourselves a departure.

Those Correspondents with whom we are at present in arrear, and who do not receive private communications from us by the 10th of January, will find their papers, after that day, at our publisher's.

An unusual press of matter obliges us to omit several papers intended for insertion.

H. BAYLIS, JOHNSON'S-COURT, FLEET-STREET.